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The Monroe News-Star

THE WEATHER
MONROE: Cloudy with showers tonight and Tuesday morning, warmer tonight and Tuesday; lowest tonight 52.

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CANADIAN TROOPS PUSH BEYOND KLEVE

Reds Are 75 Miles From Dresden

FAIR ENOUGH

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

Bespeaking prayer for the repose of the soul of Tom Pendergast, the Rt. Rev. Thomas B. McDonald revealed the fact that Pendergast had gone to church every morning at 7:30 for thirty years and described him as a man with a noble heart and a true friend.

It would be un-Christian to pursue Pendergast now but men are known by their works and this political boss of Kansas City was the obvious subject on an apostrophe by another Catholic priest, the Rev. Daniel Lord, S. J., a distinguished editor. Written several years ago, when Pendergast was at the height of his power and the commander of one of the most corrupt political gangs in our history, this document, entitled "Open Letter to a Boss," argued that such a man could not separate his religious life from his public life and that his conduct as a boss was a confessional matter.

A friend Tom Pendergast may have been to some, but there was proof that he betrayed and preyed upon many of his personal and political friends and he did not change his ways until he had been convicted of crime, sentenced to prison and, by the articles of his subsequent parole, forbidden to take further part in politics. Father Lord's essay could still apply to other powerful politicians in Jersey City, Chicago and Albany, N. Y., but he, too, is a Missourian, living and writing in St. Louis and Pendergast's conduct was such a scandal and an embarrassment to some of the clergy of the same church which, as Monsignor McDonald now reveals, he attended at 7:30 every morning for 30 years, that it may be surmised that Pendergast was the boss to whom the open letter was primarily addressed.

"Under Pendergast's absolute rule Kansas City was a serious menace to the morals of young and old and to the confidence of the people in their government, always legitimate obligations of men who accept the honors and other rewards of leadership. Hotbeds flourished openly which at a word, a word he never uttered, would have been put down. Criminal gangs operated as auxiliaries of foreign so brazenly and with such violence that the F. B. I. would not exchange confidences with his police department. Gambling houses were as commonplace as grocery stores, and, worst of all, Pendergast had a method of nullifying the votes of decent citizens of whatever religious faith, or none at all, so that they could not vote on these conditions in the elections. . . this underworld powred money into its personal treasury which he won gambled on the races. Unlike most other bosses of the same general type, ironically known as Honest Tom, he let little of the graft trickle down to his underlings.

"Under our form of government, such all law-obeying Americans are bound to respect and most of us, at one time or another, swear to uphold, the right to vote and the right that the vote shall be fairly counted, are the very foundation of orderly democratic government and Pendergast has violated those rights by stuffing the ballot boxes, a system which, carried to its logical end, means either dictatorship or revolution. Anyway, he was flagrantly inconsistent with his habitual attendance at church every morning for thirty years as Father Lord plainly pointed out.

"There is a general disposition nowadays to forget or forgive the records of politicians and privilege which exist between Pendergast and Harry Truman, now vice-president of the United States because Truman did his work as chairman of the committee to investigate the national defense program. This propaganda overlooks the putrescent allegations of other frauds on the senate committee not-

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EXTREMELY SEVERE SENTENCES RAPPED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—(AP)—Rep. [illegible] Republican, Pennsylvania, asserted today . . .

Southern Manila Big Battlefield

Tanks Smash At Hidden Japs; Superforts Blast Iwo Jima

(By Associated Press)

Rumbling American tanks and artillery smashed at building-entrenched Japanese in mined Manila streets today while Superfortresses blasted Iwo Jima.

It was the third B-29 attack in three days. Saturday they heavily damaged the important Nakajima fighter plane factory near Tokyo at a cost of probably four Superforts. Sunday they blew up great supply dumps near Rangoon in a blow which may speed Japanese evacuation of Burma.

Superforts, with smaller bombers and fighters, destroyed or damaged 180 Japanese planes and nine ships over the week-end. Allied aircraft and PT boats added more than 30 barges to the toll.

Most of southern Manila was transformed into a battlefield. Marine dive-bombers joined in the attack as the 27th infantry and motorized First cavalry divisions squeezed suicide Japanese units into a triangular area with their backs to Manila bay.

Cavalrymen made two crossings of the Pasig river, seized Neilson airstrip and drove through in from the east behind the protection of lumbering tanks.

The 37th leveled buildings and walls with artillery, mortars and rockets as they picked their way through the heavily mined streets of the Ermita

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A. F. L. GIVEN LEWIS' REPLY

Silence Maintained Pending Meeting Of Executive Council

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 12—(AP)—The A. F. of L. was given John L. Lewis' reply today to its request for his terms for reaffiliation of the United Mine Workers.

Both Lewis and President William Green of the American Federation of Labor remained silent on details of the mine workers' conditions for returning to the parent organization they left more than eight years ago, pending a meeting of the executive council.

The council was reported to accept the terms as understood by Green in verbal discussions with Lewis—that the miners would come back as they are constituted today, with a sizable miscellaneous group of unions in his catch-all District 50, leaving jurisdiction problems to be worked out by the council.

It was known that Lewis wanted to use every possible tribunal within the A. F. of L. to arbitrate these differences now central of the council by interests unfriendly to Lewis might mean loss of some fast-growing units in District 50, such as the Chemical Workers Union.

Many observers feel that as in the case the chemical workers might conceivably eclipse the mine workers themselves in numerical strength, as science develops more and more mass outlets for chemical products.

The return of Lewis to the federation would complete a fourth cycle in American labor.

The stormy mine leader was largely responsible for Green's election to the presidency of the federation on the death of Samuel Gompers more than 20 years ago. Green had been a member of the U. M. W. A. . . . [illegible] Lewis and a number created by his . . . to the fold.

It was believed that Lewis will be . . . [illegible] . . . such as steel and . . . [illegible] . . .

(Continued on Page Five)

NAZI WOMEN, GIRLS LIABLE FOR DRAFT

LONDON, Feb. 12—(AP)—Every woman and girl in Germany was made liable for service with the Volkssturm (people's army) under a decree announced by DNB this morning. The decree, signed by Hitler, was issued on the recommendation of Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler, commander of the home army.

The German radio [illegible] conscription of women in Britain and Russia [illegible] . . . [illegible] . . . the compulsory service of the women's auxiliary . . .

DNB said the new decree was signed by the "chief of the Nazi party."

The Berlin radio also announced the annulment of "marriage by telegraph," reporting that this was designed "particularly to help men of the Atlantic strongholds who have no other means of communication."

Under the plan Nazi soldiers . . . [illegible] . . . in Atlantic ports can be married in absentia by merely signing a declaration of intentions in the presence of their commanding officer.

Food Hauled To Snow-Bound Family

This sturdy yoke of oxen driven by Shirley Sanborn (foreground) and Herbert Duram plods along a pathway cut through a huge drift with food for an isolated farm family snow-bound near Salisbury, New Hampshire. This picture was made just before a new blizzard swept over New England, leaving 14 deaths in its wake. This storm added more than a foot of snow to the heaviest accumulation in years in the New England area. (A. P. Wirephoto)

URGES WORLD BANK APPROVAL

Roosevelt Asks Okay Of Plan Adopted At Bretton Woods

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Cautioning that the future "is full of promise and danger," President Roosevelt today called on Congress to carry out the Bretton Woods agreements for world economic cooperation.

In his first major public statement since leaving for the Big Three meeting, Mr. Roosevelt asked specifically for "prompt action" in authorizing American participation in a proposed international bank and international monetary fund.

"It is time," he said in a message to Congress released at the White House, "for the United States to take the lead in establishing the principle of economic cooperation as a foundation for expanded world trade."

The world bank—to provide guaranteed loans for reconstruction and development—would be capitalized at $9,100,000,000, with an aggregate United States participation of $3,175,000,000 although this country and other member nations would be required to put up only one-fifth of their quotas in cash.

The monetary fund, designed to stabilize currencies and trade balances, would be capitalized at $8,800,000,000 of which this country would subscribe $2,750,000,000.

Political collaboration as provided in the Dumbarton Oaks security organization is not in itself enough, Mr. Roosevelt said.

He promised a whole series of further recommendations, ranging from control of cartels to legislation allowing the United States to lend money directly to stimulate trade. He called again, too, for repeal of the Johnson act which now prohibits such lending.

The chief executive said the Bretton Woods plan is the "cornerstone for international economic cooperation" as the Dumbarton Oaks plan is "the

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2 MEN DROWN IN RIVER HERE

Double Tragedy Occurs Sunday; Third Man Is Rescued

Charles McDaniel, 38, and J. E. Mackesell, 79, of Steamboat Springs, Colo., were drowned in the Ouachita river, Sunday around 1 p. m., according to a report from the Monroe fire department.

Three [illegible] men, together with William G. Bass, who resides four miles west on Highway 80 and was rescued by Captain Dupree of station 1, were pleasure riding in an outboard motor boat on the river when the boat became capsized after striking an unknown object in the water. The drowning occurred between Maple and McKinley streets on the north side of town.

Bass, who was clinging to a snag in the river, was saved by Captain Dupree along with two unidentified soldiers who were making an attempt to rescue [illegible] the time of the capsize. Several [illegible] were having difficulty in paddling. Captain Dupree paddled to Bass and brought him safely to the bank.

It was believed that McDaniel, who was an employee of the Brown Paper Mill, was swimming down the river with the current when he was taken under by an eddy. His body was found around 4 p. m. by C. W. Flacy and M. M. Smith, local firemen, assisting in the dragging. They stated that the water was approximately 55 feet at the point where the body was found.

The body of Mr. Mackesell had not been found up to noon Monday and members of the fire department on the emergency [illegible] were continuing to search for the body.

SEVERAL FROM THIS AREA ARE KILLED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—(AP)—The War Department announced today the names of 1,968 United States soldiers killed in action. Included were the following:

Brewster, Pvt. James W.—Mrs. Ida J. Brewster, wife, Route 4, West Monroe.

Brocken, Pvt. Jewell L.—Mrs. Bessie U. Brocken, wife, Route 1, Box 32, Ofla.

Fiocconi, T/5 Samuel S.—Mrs. Bessie Fiocconi, wife, Box 426, Jena.

Settles, Sgt. William E.—Mrs. Mildred L. Settles, wife, Box 218, Clarks.

THINKS ELLIOTT TO BE APPROVED

Republicans Abandon Hope Of Blocking F. D. R.'s Son

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—(AP)—His Republican critics abandoned hope today of keeping Col. Elliott Roosevelt from becoming a brigadier general. But his globe trotting dog "Blaze" seemed about to have his day in the Senate.

Senator Bushfield, Republican, South Dakota, who had forced a week's delay on the army nomination, told a reporter he expects the promotion of the president's second son to be confirmed by the Senate.

But Bushfield said he wants to unburden his mind about the rapidity with which 34-year-old Elliott reached the rank of general. And, of course, there is plane-riding, priority-covered Blaze.

Some of the Democrats felt it is about time people quit kicking Elliott's dog around. But critics had a military affairs subcommittee report to bank about.

That report quoted Maj. Gen. H. L. George as saying the air transport command which he heads made "a serious mistake" in giving Blaze an "A" priority for an army plane ride from Washington to Hollywood. Three service men went off the plane at Memphis to make way for the war freight, some of which in turn gave way to the crated Blaze who flew on.

The report said that Mrs. John Boettiger, the colonel's sister, [illegible]

(Continued on Third Page)

REPORTS OF NAZI DEATHS DOUBTED

LONDON, Feb. 12—(AP)—An [illegible] skepticism over Berlin announcements of deaths of high Nazi officials has led to the conviction in London that the future Allied authorities should check thoroughly before accepting such German claims.

A flurry of announced deaths [illegible] of Nazis high on the war criminal lists is understood in the German position becomes more acute.

Last week Berlin announced that Roland Freisler, president of the so-called people's court, was killed in an American air raid on the German capital. Freisler sent hundreds of persons opposed to Hitler to the gallows.

"The possibility exists that in this case and others similar statements there may have been a deliberate death report followed by a false funeral to allow Freisler to start a new life outside of Germany."

ROOSEVELT WILL VISIT DE GAULLE

PARIS, Feb. 12—(AP)—Visits to Italy and France and a conference with Gen. de Gaulle will be on President Roosevelt's agenda during his homeward journey from the Black sea "Big Three" conference, it is believed generally here.

It is expected that Roosevelt will attempt to restore French disappointment over not being included in the Black sea meeting.

PEACE PACT IN GREECE SIGNED

Left-Wing Militia To Turn Over Arms To Greek Troops

ATHENS, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Negotiations between left-wing E. A. M. (national liberation front) leaders and the government of Premier Gen. Nicholas Plastiras were successfully concluded today with the signing of an agreement expected to bring peace to this troubled land.

A brief announcement said that the conferees, who have been trying to reconcile their differences for several weeks, finally reached agreement "on all points under discussion" at 4:30 a. m.

A 10-hour session preceded the final signing of the accord, which was limited to a brief protocol because of the hour, the announcement said.

The protocol specified that a detailed statement embodying all points of the agreement would be signed at 2 p. m.

It was presumed that a fuller announcement would be issued later concerning the terms of the agreement.

A Reuters dispatch said the terms included surrender of arms by the E. L. A. S. armed militia of the E. A. M. to Greek troops under British supervision. The dispatch said martial law would be terminated but that certain restrictions on the right of assembly and the freedom of the press would be retained.

The communique announcing the agreement said:

"The conference between representatives of the Greek government and the E. A. M. delegation which was convened on the initiative of his beatitude Archbishop Damaskinos, regent, has been brought to a conclusion.

"At 4:30 a. m. February 12 agreement was reached on all points under discussion without exception.

"As it was late it was not possible for a detailed statement to be signed and representatives of either side were

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TWO WOMEN, MAN ARE SHOT TO DEATH

PIKEVILLE, Ky., Feb. 12—(AP)—Two women and a man were shot to death and a third woman was critically wounded near here yesterday in what Sheriff D. T. Keel described as "family trouble."

Charged with triple murder, the sheriff said, is 33-year-old Anderson Adkins, brother-in-law of the victims until his recent divorce.

Adkins, the officer related, was apprehended on a mountain-top about an hour after the shootings.

The dead are Mrs. Orbin K. Long, 34, of Millard; Mrs. Tom Johnson, 49, of Millard; and Clarence Blackburn, 29, of Regina. Mrs. Burton Bentley, 26, of Regina, was shot three times. She is in a hospital here.

Sheriff Keel said Adkins' divorced wife, Mrs. Elmo Adkins, now lives at Osborne, near Denton, Ohio, and that Adkins had sought custody of their 10-year-old son, living with his former wife's family.

TROOPS CROSS BOBER RIVER

Soviets Threaten To Roll Up Southern End Of Nazi Defense

MAKING FAST TIME

LONDON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Marshal Ivan Konev, virtually encircling Breslau in Silesia and racing ahead 15 to 27 miles a day, has forced two bridgeheads across the Bober river 75 miles or less from Dresden, German broadcasts said today.

The Germans said Konev's tanks had broken into Bunzlau on the Bober, while to the north they had smashed through German defenses some 12 miles north of Sagan. This point is about 90 miles southeast of Berlin and only 30 miles south of Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian army which the Germans said had crossed the Oder south of Fuerstenberg.

Zhukov the Germans said, had made a spurt to within 15 miles of Stettin, Berlin's Baltic port. The Germans said Zuhukov's right wing had penetrated to both sides of Madue See, a lake north of Pyritz, where they were menacing the rear of Stargard, a strongpoint of Stettin's eastern defenses.

The breakthrough at Sagan menaced the rail center of Sorau eight miles to the northwest and indicated that Konev's First Ukrainian spearheads had emerged in the rear of German forces dug in on the Oder's southern bank southeast of Berlin.

Sagan is 27 miles west of the farthest point which Moscow has reported as reached.

The breakthrough here threatened to roll up the southern flak of Berlin's defenses, while the spearhead pointed at Stettin threatened the northern flank.

The drive to Bunzlau took the First Ukrainian army three-fourths the way

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MAY RESTRICT WALLACE MORE

Will Vote On Taking Him Off Bank's Board Of Directors

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Henry Wallace's House opponents appeared assured today of a chance to restrict further the money powers he would wield if he becomes secretary of commerce.

The anti-Wallace forces apparently were given private assurance they'll have an opportunity to vote on taking the commerce secretary off the board of directors of the Export-Import Bank. This would be in addition to divorcing him from control of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

The House rule committee despite earlier opposition is expected Wednesday to send to the House floor for general debate the Senate-passed George bill taking RFC out of the commerce department.

As the price for their support in the rules committee, Wallace opponents were confident the administration will give them an opportunity for a [illegible] vote on an amendment covering the Export-Import Bank angle.

The Wallace opponents [illegible] . . . [illegible] . . . the Export-Import bank amendment, but they may not be. They [illegible] . . . it an attempt to ward off a motion to drive the bill out the House floor without a vote.

Chief administration goal is the passage of the George bill with some amendments if necessary before March 1 when the Senate will vote whether to confirm or reject President Roosevelt's appointment of Wallace to be secretary of commerce. Congress has the assurance of President Roosevelt that he'll approve the George bill as it passed the Senate.

COFFEE SUPPLIES ARE TERMED HIGH

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—(AP)—Despite rationing, stores, coffee supplies were described today as higher than in peace time with shipments still coming in from Brazil even though producers there have requested increased price ceilings.

Trade sources placed stocks on hand here at about 4,500,000 bags. Approximately 2,800,000 bags more have been bought and are afloat or en route on their way to the United States.

This total of 7,300,000 bags of coffee is marked for the United States is enough to last about six months. Normal peacetime stocks averaged around a 30 to 90-day supply.

Half Of Pruem Is Cleared By Yanks

Flood Loosed By German Breaching Of Big Dam Immobilizes U. S. Ninth And British Second Armies

PARIS, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Kleve, northern anchor of the Siegfried line, was captured today by the Canadian First army.

The city of 20,000 lies 12 miles west of Nijmegen, starting point of the Canadian and British offensive. Reduced to smoking junk by Allied aerial and artillery poundings, it was the largest place yet captured in the five-day-old drive.

Some 115 miles south, the U. S. Third army won half of the major traffic center of Pruem, which the Germans apparently were abandoning.

In between, Roer river floods created by German breaching of headwater dams kept the U. S. First and Third and the British Second armies immobile. The reservoirs behind the opened dams still were draining but the Roer, two miles wide at one place, did not appear to be rising further than the seven-foot stage already reached at some points.

The Canadian, British and Scotch bulge was enlarged on both the north and south ends of the Kleve sector, and Allied Lines encompassed more than three-fourths of the Reichs forest.

Allies were beyond the main defenses of the original Siegfried line in the north.

The Canadians cleaned the low Rhine lands up to a railroad connecting Kleve with the river and forced the Spoy canal, leading four miles north of Kleve to the Rhine.

At points below Kleve, the Allies were within 22 miles of Wesel on the Rhine, nearest city of the great Ruhr industrial valley.

The Canadians bypassed or captured Rindern, Wasserburg, Wardhsn and Brienen.

In the center of the front, the United States Fourth division cleared half of the major road junction of Pruem behind the widely breached Siegfried line. This fortified traffic center is eight miles inside Germany and 45 from the Rhine city of Koblenz. American occupation headquarters after the last war.

Between the focal points of battle, floods loosed by the German breaching of the Schwammenauel dam flood gates immobilized the United States Ninth and British Second army lined up along the Roer which was a rampaging river two miles wide at one point. Water sank 46 feet from the top of the dam and deflated the five-mile long reservoir flooding the Roer valley.

The British and Canadian troops of Gen. Henry Crerar's command won control of three-fourths of the Reichswald thickets of fir trees and crossed in force the Spoy canal linking Kleve (population: 20,000) to the Rhine, four miles north.

The Dutch border town of Gennep (population 3,272) was captured and the Niers river to the east was crossed. Vanguards passed a road through the shell splintered Reichswald a mile north of Kessel, which lies four miles northwest of the west wall road center of Goch. The prisoner bag rose to 4,000, most of them teen-age youth or infirm men.

Fighting in the Rhine elbow between the medieval fortress ruins of Kleve and the river was described as almost an amphibious operation because of the extensive thaw and flooding of the easily drowned German and Dutch flatlands. A vast array of amphibious equipment including buffaloes and ducks kept the offensive on the move within 22 miles of Wesel, northern gateway into the prized Ruhr industrial valley.

The Germans said "the enemy is breaking through our Maas river defenses" near Kleve and that preparations were proceeding for "an impending large-scale offensive in the Aachen-Venlo area."

Supreme headquarters said the flood peak on the Roer apparently had been reached and that water could be expected to subside during the next few days to something approaching normal. Most flooding was downstream from Dueren where the ground is flat. Upstream from Dueren, the river is rushing madly and deep, barely contained within its banks.

The United States First army which reached the great dam mopped up the west and north sides of the Roer to

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EASIER LABOR MEASURE SEEN

Strong Ceiling Instead Of Draft Of Workers Expected

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The Office of War Mobilization renewed its appeal today for national service legislation as a compromise manpower control plan was reported under preparation in the Senate.

An OWM statement released by Jonathan Daniels, an administrative assistant to President Roosevelt, said:

"The Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion has advised me that an article in the New York Herald Tribune today indicating that the Voorhis bill is acceptable to it as a substitute for the May bill is without foundation in fact.

"The director holds firmly to the belief that manpower legislation should recognize that there is an obligation for men eligible for the draft who are not called into the armed service to render their war service wherever it is most needed.

"The views of this office have been expressed in its report on the May bill to Senator Thomas, chairman of the Senate military affairs committee."

The Voorhis bill would give statutory standing to manpower ceiling directives of the War Manpower Commission. Defeated in the House before passage of the May bill, its objectives are similar to those of the Senate compromise plan.

Advocates of the Senate plan aren't talking for publication until they get the details worked out.

But they think it may attract enough votes in the Senate military affairs committee to displace the work-or-jail bill for which the White House, generals and admirals have asked. That measure passed the House after hot debate, it has made no perceptible progress in the Senate committee which has been contemplating it two full weeks.

The compromise measure probably would give the War Manpower Commission authority to set employment ceilings in individual plants, and call for the placement of workers only by referral to a suitable government agency.

Senator Mead (Democrat, New York), told reporters that any bill finally agreed upon ought to provide for thorough surveys to determine how

(Continued on Third Page)

MALLETTE IS GIVEN POSTHUMOUS AWARD

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 12—(AP)—The [illegible] of the United States has awarded posthumously the air medal to Lt. (jg) Earl Clifford Mallette, U. S. N. R. Lieutenant Mallette was the son of Mrs. Parnell G. Mallette, of 309 North Fifth street, West Monroe, La.

The navy announced the following citation:

"For meritorious conduct in aerial flight as pilot of a carrier-based dive bomber during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific war area from July 18 to September 24, 1944. Courageous and daring in combat, Lieutenant (jg) Mallette participated in numerous strikes against enemy positions and shipping in the Marianas, the Bonins, Palau and the Philippines during this period, pressing home his attacks aggressively and with outstanding skill and contributing materially to the success of these [illegible] missions."

HOPE RUSSIANS TO FREE PRISONERS

MOSCOW, Feb. 12—(AP)—Allied military missions at Moscow are hopeful that the current widescale operations of the Red army may result in the release of numerous American, British, French and Canadian war prisoners.

Marshal Konev's latest breakthrough in Silesia has brought him to within 40 miles of Sagan on the Bober river, believed by the American military mission in Moscow to be the last site of Stalag Luft Three.

AMERICANS BOOST RETAIL SPENDING

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—(AP)—For the sixth straight year Americans increased their spending at retail stores in 1944.

The Commerce Department said today 1944 retail sales were $69,275,000,000, a new record and nine per cent more than the $63,659,000,000 spent in 1943.

December sales were estimated at $7,450,000,000, the highest of any month on record and 11 per cent above December, 1943.

Two factors were important in the 1944 gain, said the department:

1. Sales of durable goods started up again after two years of decline. "A large part of this increase was due to price rises. Particularly noticeable was the substantial rise of prices of furniture and home furnishings."

2. Retail prices in general continued to rise. The increase was moderate, however, in the Commerce Department retail index rose about three per cent from the 1943 average, less than in any one of the three preceding years.